

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 - 21 (Cancelled)

22. (New) A cutting head for a brush-cutter, edge-trimmer or similar, comprising a passageway for a cutting wire and a movable element for locking the wire, wherein the locking element comprises a slide which is capable of moving linearly in a guide that intersects the wire passageway and which is subjected to a force, the slide and the wire passageway in the vicinity of the guide having working surfaces capable of locking the wire by shearing effect.

23. (New) The cutting head of Claim 22, wherein said force is a centrifugal force generated by the rotation of the head.

24. (New) The cutting head of Claim 23, wherein the slide is acted upon by a spring.

25. (New) The cutting head of Claim 24, wherein the spring acts in the same direction
as the centrifugal force.

26. (New) The cutting head of Claim 25, comprising two passageways for two sections of cutting wire.

27. (New) The cutting head of Claim 22, wherein the wire passageway or each wire passageway opens onto the outside of the head at its two ends, so as to receive a section of cutting wire whose two terminal lengths operate.

28. (New) The cutting head of Claim 26, comprising a common slide capable of locking the two sections of cutting wire.

29. (New) The cutting head of Claim 28, comprising two slides capable of locking respectively the two sections of wire.

30. (New) The cutting head of Claim 29, wherein the two slides are capable of moving in opposite directions along a diameter of the head.

31. (New) The cutting head of Claim 26, wherein the two wire passageways are parallel with one another.

32. (New) The cutting head of Claim 31, wherein the two ends of the two wire passageways define four wire outlets mutually spaced by approximately 90° in the peripheral direction of the head.

33. (New) The cutting head of Claim 22, wherein the cross section of the wire passageway or of each wire passageway is chosen from the circular, oblong or polygonal shapes.

34. (New) The cutting head of Claim 33, wherein the cross section of the wire passageway or of each wire passageway has a flattened diamond shape.

35. (New) The cutting head of Claim 22, wherein the working surface of the slide belongs to a through wire passageway formed in the slide.

36. (New) The cutting head of Claim 35, wherein the through wire passageway formed in the slide has the same cross section as the corresponding wire passageway formed in the cutting head.

37. (New) The cutting head of Claim 35, wherein the through wire passageway formed in the slide has a cross section different from that of the corresponding wire passageway formed in the cutting head.

38. (New) The cutting head of Claim 22, wherein the working surface of the slide is formed on a profiled working region.

39. (New) The cutting head of Claim 38, wherein the working surface of the slide is oriented obliquely relative to the direction of movement of the slide.

40. (New) The cutting head of Claim 22, wherein the slide or each slide comprises an actuation portion that can be accessed from the outside of the head and that makes it possible to position the said slide so that it does not form an obstacle to the engagement of a section of cutting wire in the corresponding wire passageway formed in the head.

41. (New) The cutting head of Claim 40, wherein said actuation portion is, in the radial direction, set back relative to the periphery of the cutting head.

42. (New) A cutting device such as a brush-cutter, edge-trimmer or similar, comprising a motor capable of rotating a cutting head comprising a passageway for a cutting wire and a movable element for locking the wire, in which the locking element comprises a slide which is capable of moving linearly in a guide that intersects the wire passageway and which is subjected to a force, the slide and the wire passageway in the vicinity of the guide having working surfaces capable of locking the wire by shearing effect.